

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11

IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SS-20 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /150 W

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R 301200Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7808

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USUN NEW YORK 378

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2490

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM'S MEETING WITH IVORY COAST  
FOREIGN MINISTER

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS DONALD EASUM, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR, PAID CALL ON IVORIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARSENE ASSOUAN USHER ON MARCH 29. ALSO PRESENT WAS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AMBASSADOR POLNEAU.

2. SAHEL. EASUM BRIEFLY DESCRIBED PURPOSE OF SAHEL COM CONFERENCE. USHER NOTED THAT IVORY COAST, TOO, WAS AFFECTED BY DROUGHT. HE QUOTED A FRIEND WHO HAD SAID THAT IF YOU CALLED FOR HELP FOR CHOLERA YOU GOT IT, BUT IF YOU HAD CHOLERA AND SAID NOTHING YOU DIED. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT IVORY COAST MIGHT BE IN LATTER CATEGORY AS REGARDS DROUGHT RELIEF.

3. SPECIAL UNGA ECONOMIC ISSUES. EASUM ASKED USHER ABOUT PLANS FOR KAMPALA OUA MEETING (APRIL 1-5) FOR WHICH LATTER WAS ABOUT TO DEPART. USHER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT KAMPALA MEETING AND UNGA TO FOLLOW  
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WOULD REALLY FOCUS ON ECONOMIC, AS DISTINCT FROM POLITICAL, PROBLEMS.

HE IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT DEVELOPED WORLD REALIZE THAT LDCS CANNOT CONTINUE TO GROW IF PETROLEUM PRICES STAY HIGH AND OTHER COMMODITY PRICES REMAIN STABLE. HE CITED DOLS 15 BILLION COST ESTIMATED FOR ADDED LDC PETROLEUM BILL, WHICH COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE OFFSET BY AID, FROM WEST OR EVEN FROM ARABS. HE DERIDED THE PETROLEUM PRODUCER COUNTRY PROPOSALS FOR A DOLS 200 MILLION FUND FOR AFRICA AS BEING INSIGNIFICANT COMPARED TO AFRICA'S SHARE OF THE INCREASED COST OF PETROLEUM, AND PUT LITTLE STORE IN ARABS' COMING THROUGH IN ANY CASE. HE HOPED WEST WOULD APPRECIATE NEED FOR A MULTI-COMMODITY PRICE INDEX WHICH WOULD ALLOW ALL RAW MATERIAL PRODUCER COUNTRIES TO BENEFIT IN SOME EQUIVALENT MANNER WHEN PRICE OF A MAJOR COMMODITY LIKE PETROLEUM WENT UP.

4. PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. TURNING TO AFRICAN POLITICAL ISSUES, EASUM HOPED AFRICANS UNDERSTOOD U.S. JURIDICAL POSITION ON NON-RECOGNITION OF GUINEA (BISSAU). USHER REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT TIME FOR "JURIDICISME" AND HOPED THAT U.S. COULD TAKE MORE POSITIVE POSITION, IF ONLY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, WHICH WOULD SHOW PORTUGAL AND REST OF WORLD THAT WE REALLY FAVOR INDEPENDENCE. HE HAD SERVED AS ONE OF DRAFTERS OF "LOI CADRE" BETWEEN FRANCE AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS IN THE 1950S AND, WHILE CHANGE HAD COME ABOUT PEACEFULLY AT THAT TIME AS COMPARED TO THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES TODAY, HE WAS SUFFICIENTLY OPTIMISTIC TO BELIEVE THAT CHANGE WOULD OCCUR FOR THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES AS WELL. DESPITE THE SET-BACK TO GENERAL SPINOLA'S RECENT INITIATIVE, HE SAW IT AS A CRITICAL SIGN OF CHANGE INSIDE PORTUGAL THAT THE BOOK HAD EVEN BEEN PUBLISHED AND THAT RESPECTED MILITARY LEADERS WERE TALKING OF PEACEFUL CHANGE AS AGAINST MILITARY SOLUTIONS. HE NOTED THAT SPINOLA'S IDEAS WERE VERY CLOSE TO WHAT THE LOI CADRE HAD SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE.

5. BRAZIL AND PORTUGAL. USHER ADDED THAT BRAZIL WAS A KEY TO CHANGING PORTUGAL'S POSITION. HE HAD BEEN THERE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT LAST YEAR AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH BRAZILIAN INTEREST IN TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE PORTUGUESE. HE HOPE THAT THIS INITIATIVE WOULD CONTINUE, SUPPORTED BY THE U.S.

6. CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION. EASUM RAISED QUESTION OF CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION AT UN. USHER SEEMED UNCOMFORTABLE OVER SUBJECT. EASUM STATED US POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR PRESENT PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT. USHER SAID HE HAD GOTTEN IMPRESSION LAST OCTOBER IN CONFIDENTIAL

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WASHINGTON

THAT USG WAS WAITING FOR PEKING'S INITIATIVE ON THIS QUESTION. AMBASSADOR RECALLED CONVERSATION ALONG SUCH LINES, BUT REITERATED OUR PRESENT POSITION. USHER SAID IVORY COAST PREFERRED TO STAY OUT OF THE "INTERNAL QUARREL" AMONG THE CAMBODIANS AND THUGHT IT BEST TO HAVE THEM SETTLE IT THEMSELVES. HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT, EVEN IF SIHANOUK CAME BACK, HE WOULDN'T LAST MORE THAN 48 HOURS BEFORE KHMER ROUGE (GRUNK) TOOK OVER FULL CONTROL. COMMENT. USHER'S

VIEWS WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT IVORY COAST IS INDEED SHIFTING FROM PRO-LON NOL TO NEUTRAL POSITION ON CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE. THIS SUGGESTS PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET MAY BE PREPARING TO WITHDRAW RECOGNITION FROM GKR.

7. USHER TO WASHINGTON. AS MEETING WAS BREAKING UP, AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER USHER WOULD BE GOING TO WASHINGTON DURING APRIL UNGA. USHER SAID THAT IF THE SESSION WERE PROLONGED HE MIGHT POSSIBLY DO SO. EASUM SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING HIM THERE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.  
SMITH

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